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Patent
Case No.: 55520US006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: STEBBINGS, WILLIAM L.
Application No.: 10/655973 Group Art Unit: 1713
Filed: September 5, 2003 Examiner: Robert D. Harlan
Title: ADHESIVE DETACKIFICATION

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 872-9306.
June 23, 2005 Date	 Signed by: Phyllis J. Boettcher

Dear Sir:

This Reply follows the Office Action mailed June 13, 2005. Claims 1 - 41 are pending. Claims 1 - 41 were restricted under 35 USC § 121 as follows:

- I. Claims 1 - 15 and 27 are said to be drawn to a method, classified in Class 526, subclass 89+;
- II. Claims 16 - 26, 28, and 38 - 41 are said to be drawn to an article, classified in Class 427, subclass 100+;
- III. Claims 29 - 31 are said to be drawn to a solution, classified in Class 525, subclass 240+;
- IV. Claims 32 - 37 are said to be drawn to an adhesive, classified in Class 524, subclass 81+.

Election

Applicants elect Group IV, with traverse.

Reconsideration and withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

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Applicants submit that the claims of Groups I-IV are so interrelated that a search of one group of claims will reveal art to the other. Moreover, the classification of claims of Groups I-IV in different classes and subclasses is not sufficient grounds to require restriction.

Were restriction to be effected between the claims of Groups I-IV, a separate examination of the claims of Groups I-IV would require substantial duplication of work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Even though some additional consideration would be necessary, the scope of analysis of novelty of all the claims of Groups I-IV would have to be as rigorous as when only the claims of Group IV were being considered by themselves. Clearly, this duplication of effort would not be warranted where these claims of different categories are so interrelated. Further, Applicants submit that for restriction to be effected between the claims of Groups I-IV, it would place an undue burden by requiring payment of a separate filing fee for examination of the nonelected claims, as well as the added costs associated with prosecuting two applications and maintaining two patents.

Conclusion

Applicants have elected Group IV. Continued prosecution of this application is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number with questions that can be resolved with a simple teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,

June 23, 2005

Date

By: 

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